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Lansing



Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

FRIENDS OF MICHIGAN HISTORY, INC Meeting Minutes Michigan Historical Museum Lansing, Michigan November 13, 2007

Call to Order

President Bus Spaniola called the Board of Directors (Board) meeting of the Friends of Michigan History (Friends) to order at 1:15 PM.

Board Members Present: Larry Griffin, Keith Harrison, Richard Johnson, Charles Seeley, Tom Shawver, Bus Spaniola, Morris Thomas, Tom Truscott, and Geneva Wiskemann (who arrived at 1:30 PM).

Board Members Absent: David Brickey, Keith Pohl, Ralph Sims, Louise Stilwill, Paul Tarr, and Bill Wellman.

Board Members Excused: Adriana Greci Green, Ralph Sims, Paul Tarr, Keith Pohl, and Bill Wellman.

Michigan Historical Museum (Museum) Staff Present: Chris Dancisak.

President Spaniola noted that no quorum existed. It was decided to proceed with the meeting as scheduled, hope for the attendance of one more Board member, and then ratify any motions approved during the non-quorum portion of the meeting once the ninth Board member showed up. If no additional Board member attended the meeting, than all actions taken at this meeting would need to be ratified by the Board at its December meeting.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the; motion passed.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve as transmitted the minutes from the October 8, 2007 Board meeting; motion passed.

President Report

President Spaniola expressed his appreciation to all the members of the 2007 Veterans Day Program Committee for their efforts and asked that the Board take this time to critique the November 4, 2007 program. Everyone felt that overall the program went well. In particular, it was felt that World War II Veteran Donald Burgett presentation of his experiences as a member of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division was one of the better programs that have been presented at the annual event. Some of the other programs successes noted included a wider advertisement of the program in the new media than in previous years; the

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President Report (continued)

outstanding memento plaque that was provided to Mr. Burgett for his participation in the program, and the donuts and cider that were made available to the public following the program. Some of the areas that the Board felt needed improvement included the need for greater participation from the Veterans and other organizations in the massing of the flags, better instruction to the participants and control of the actual posting and retiring of the organizational colors. Given the above, it was felt that it again was time for Board representatives to go to the Commander's Group (the Commanders Group is composed of the State Commanders of the Federally Chartered Veteran Organizations in Michigan) to reinvigorate the Board's relationship with the Commander's Group in order to get more veterans organizations to participate. Keith indicated that he would get with the Museum to help update the veterans organizations contact list. He also indicated that he would talk with Michigan State University ROTC program Commander to see if the Board can get participation from the Army ROTC students. Tom Truscott indicated that he could work with some of the local schools.

With the arrival of Geneva Wiskemann, President Spaniola declared that a quorum existed and requested a motion to approve all previous actions taken by the Board.

Approval of Previous Non-Quorum Meeting Board Motions

A motion was made and seconded to approve the action of the Board taken during the non-quorum portion of the Board meeting (approval of the agenda and the October 8, 2007 Board meeting minutes); motion passed.

Treasurer Report

BALANCE	10-01-07	\$11,768.76
DEPOSIT	10-12-07	
FOMH	418.40	
Walker Tavern	<u>76.60</u>	
	495.00	<u>+ 495.00</u>
TOTAL		= \$12,263.76
CASHED CHECKS		
# 1328 Historic Ft. Wayne	250.00	
# 1331 Dancizak	<u>47.69</u>	
	297.69	<u>- 297.69</u>
BALANCE	10-31-07	= \$11,966.07
UNCASHED CHECKS		
# 1332 Michigan Oral History	500.00	
# 1333 Walker Tavern	76.60	
ALLOCATED FUNDS		
Document Conservation	<u>1,000.00</u>	
	-1,576.60	<u>- 1,576.60</u>
AVAILABLE FUNDS	10-31-07	= \$10,389.47

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Treasurer Report (continued)

Dick Johnson also passed out a letter and certificate that he received on behalf of the Friends for its contribution to the Elijah E. Myers Memorial Commission to create a marker for the grave of Elijah E. Myers commemorating his career as one of America's Greatest Architects and the designer of the Michigan, Texas, and Colorado State Capitols,.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's report as presented; motion passed.

Introduction of New Board Member

Larry Griffin was elected to the Board during the September Board meeting. He worked 25 years with the Museum, retiring in 2002. He currently is teaching history at Lansing Community College.

Presentation of Bills

The following bills were presented for approval by the Board:

- A. \$185.00 for freight cost to mail the protective map folders – *Map Preservation. This was over and above the \$1,000 set aside by the Board to purchase the folders.*
- B. \$164.68 for advertisement - *Veterans Program*
- C. \$ 42.90 for cider and donuts - *Veterans Program*
- D. \$ 50.00 to Terry Carroll (Bagpiper) - *Veterans Program*
- E. \$200.00 Honorarium to Don Burgett – *Veterans Program*
- F. \$139.28 for plaque to Don Burgett - *Veterans Program*
- G. \$ 40.00 to Ron Burk – *Archaeology Day*
- H. \$150.00 Honorarium to Maurer – *Archaeology Day*
- I. \$100.00 Honorarium to Donald Simons – *Archaeology Day*
- J. \$200.00 Honorarium to Robert Love – *Archaeology Day*
- K. \$150.00 Honorarium to Elizabeth Pruritt – *Archaeology Day*
- L. \$149.50 Restaurant Placemats - *WinterFest Program*
- M. \$ 72.55 Hobby Lobby (Seasonal Decorations) - *WinterFest Program*

A motion was made and seconded to approve Items A- M above; motion passed

N. Up to \$100.00 for 3M-DL951 Front & Back Lamination sheets (for membership cards)

A motion was made and seconded to approve Item N above; motion passed

Museum Report WinterFest

Chris Dancisak discussed how some of the previously Board-approved \$2,000 for the Museum's Second Annual WinterFest (*December 8 and 15, 2007*) were being spent. For instance, money has been spent on various advertisements and approximately one week before December 8th and December 15th, paid advertisements and public service announcements will be aired.

He also indicated that the local Saturn dealer in Lansing has expressed an interest in

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working with the Friends for the benefit of the Museum. The hope is that the car dealer will be able to help through the Friends to underwrite some the Museum programs in the future.

Chris stated that despite the absence of a budget, the Museum was still in the process of planning for new exhibits and programs for the new fiscal year, which began October 1, 2007.

Committee Reports

A. *Map Preservation Committee*. No report.

B. *2007 Veterans Day Program Committee*. This report was discussed during the President's Report.

C. *Board Nominating Committee*. No report.

D. *Membership Committee*. No report.

E. *Magazine/Military Committee*. No report.

F. *Grants Committee*. No report.

G. *Newsletter Committee* – Several items were discussed including the need for names of new Friends members, affiliate information, a mission statement, and other masthead information such as 501 (c)(3) statement etc that needed to be added to the document. President Spaniola indicated that he would get with Paul Tarr to see about arranging another meeting of the committee. In the interim, he suggested that Board members should email Paul with their comments and suggestions.

H. *Bylaws Committee* – Keith Harrison indicated that Tax Attorney Sara Pierson had reviewed the Friends Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws and indicated that (1) as currently written, the Bylaws were in conflict with the Articles of Incorporation since the Articles of Incorporation do not allow the Friends to have chapters and (2) there also was a potential IRS problem with how the bylaws had the chapters set up. It will be necessary to for both the Articles of Incorporation and the bylaws to be amended. This will need to be done before a Group Exemption Number could be applied for from the IRS. It was indicated that the proposed revisions could be completed and sent to the Board before the next meeting in order for the Board to approve the bylaws for distribution to the membership for approval consideration. It also was recommended that the two chapters of the Friends ensure that they have obtained their own Employer Identification Number.

Old Business

A. *License Plates*. President Spaniola briefly reported on his continued efforts to have the state establish a Michigan History license plate. Currently, the bill to establish the license plate has been and will remain pending until all the budget issues are resolved.

B. *Telephonic Board Attendance*. President Spaniola indicated that really nothing had changed

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from last meeting. The Board's current meeting location on the 1st floor of the Museum does not have telephonic capability. Geneva Wiskemann discussed the possibility of using Skype, which is a telephone service through the Internet. However, in order to be able to use this service, it would be necessary to have Internet access either through hardwired or Wyfi Internet connection. The state's hardwire Internet system would not allow such a connection and currently is there is no Wyfi Internet access in state buildings.

New Business

Museum Fund Raisers. The possibility of holding two Museum Fund Raisers during 2008 (one in July and one in August) was discussed. The fundraisers would be a wine tasting or other food-related event and would have musical groups providing light entertainment. It was suggested that possibly one group could be the Four Freshmen. Other groups also were mentioned.

A motion was made and seconded to investigate the possibility to arrange such food/music Museum fund raisers; motion passed.

A committee, composed of Bus Spaniola (chair), Tom Truscott, Larry Griffin, Tom Shawver, and Keith Harrison, was appointed to work on this project.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Keith G. Harrison

Keith G. Harrison, Secretary
Board of Directors
Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

The next Regular Board meeting will be Monday, December 10, 2007, in Lansing.